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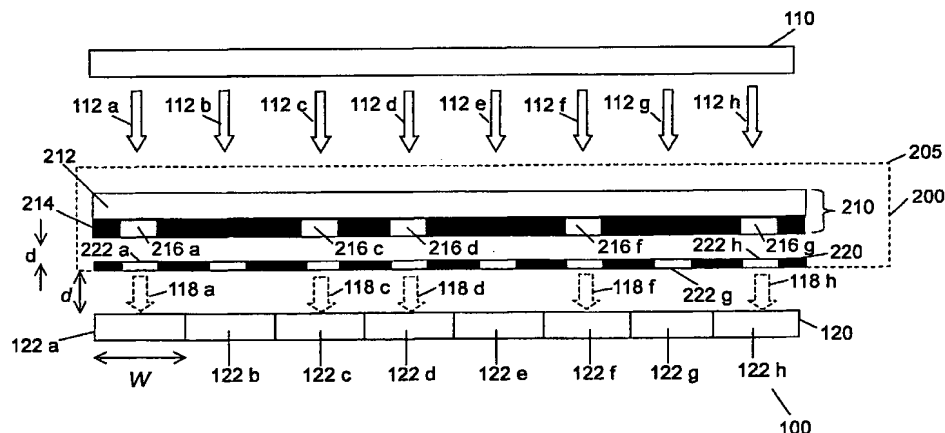
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(54) Title: OPTICAL INFORMATION STORAGE UNIT



(57) Abstract: An optical information storage unit and a reader for such a unit are described. The optical information storage unit comprises an information layer and a readout layer. The information layer has a plurality of data areas. Each data area is arranged to emit light when illuminated by light at a predetermined wavelength. The readout layer has a plurality of optical apertures. Each optical aperture is arranged to image substantially the near field of light emitted from a respective data area.

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